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Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 13 (e)
Economic and environmental questions: environment

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Jagdish Koonjul (Mauritius), on the basis of informal consultations

Protection against products harmful to health and the environment

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 37/137 of 17 December 1982, 38/149 of 19 December 1983, 39/229 of 18 December 1984 and 44/226 of 22 December 1989, Assembly decisions 47/439 of 22 December 1992 and 50/431 of 20 December 1995, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1998/41 of 30 July 1998 and 2001/33 of 26 July 2001,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment,[1] which contains a review[2] of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale Have Been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments,[3]

Taking note of the fact that an increasing number of countries participate in the preparation of the Consolidated List,

Noting with satisfaction the continued close collaboration among the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme in the preparation and dissemination of the Consolidated List,

Taking note of commitments made and targets established regarding environmentally sound management of chemicals in the Plan of Implementation of

[1] A/59/81-E/2004/63.

[2] Ibid., sect. II.

[3] United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.03.IV.9 and E.04.IV.2. For previous issues of the Consolidated List, see United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.84.IV.8, E.87.IV.1, E.91.IV.4, E.94.IV.3, E.97.IV.2, E.02.IV.3 and E.03.IV.3.

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the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[4] adopted by the Summit on 4 September 2002,

Noting the coming into force, in early 2004, of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade[5] and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,[6]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment[7] and notes the online availability[7] of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale Have Been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments;[7]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the cooperation extended by Governments in the preparation of the Consolidated List, and urges all Governments, in particular those that have not yet done so, to provide the necessary information to relevant organizations for inclusion in future issues of the Consolidated List;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to update the electronic version of the Consolidated List, alternating between chemicals and pharmaceuticals every year, while printing only new data to complement previously printed issues for the benefit of those, particularly in developing countries, who may not have easy access to the electronic version;

4. *Urges* all Governments to participate fully in the process of developing a strategic approach to international chemicals management by 2005, in order to achieve the 2020 target of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as set out in paragraph 23 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[4] pursuant to which chemicals would be used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, using transparent science-based risk assessment procedures and science-based risk management procedures, taking into account the precautionary approach, as set out in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[8] and support developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes by providing technical and financial assistance, and calls for a more coordinated use of existing international instruments in this field, taking into account the work undertaken by the United Nations system in this regard;

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[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Text available from http://www.pic.int/en/ViewPage.asp?id=104 (accessed 22 July 2004).

[6] Text available from http://www.pops.int/. (accessed 22 July 2004).

[7] Available from www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc/Path:Publications (accessed 22 July 2004).

[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

5. *Encourages* countries to implement the new Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals[9] as agreed in paragraph 23 (c) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation as soon as possible, with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008;

6. *Urges* all Governments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade[5] and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants[6] and to fully implement them;

7. *Invites* multilateral and bilateral agencies to continue to strengthen and coordinate their activities for improving the capacity-building of developing countries, particularly least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, inter alia, through technical assistance in the area of the sound management of hazardous chemicals and dangerous pharmaceutical products;

8. *Emphasizes* the need to continue to utilize the work being undertaken by relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations in this area, as well as that being carried out under international agreements and conventions in related areas, in updating the Consolidated List;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report every three years, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/229 of 18 December 1984, on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account previous Assembly resolutions on the same subject, as appropriate.

[9] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.E.25.